

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 /058 W
-----181056Z 130226 /14

R 170841Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5981

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0791

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, MZ, PO

SUBJECT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PANGUENE APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO
PORTUGAL

1. LOCAL DAILY NOTICIAS ANNOUNCED THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER ARMANDO ALEXANDRE PANGUENE HAS BEEN APPOINTED
MOZAMBIQUE'S AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL. ARTICLE NOTES THAT
PRELIMINARIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND A PRESENTATION OF
CREDENTIALS IS EXPECTED SHORTLY. A NEW PORTUGUESE
AMBASSADOR TO MOZAMBIQUE IS ALSO EXPECTED SHORTLY.

2. COMMENT: PANGUENE WAS BORN ON 19 DECEMBER 1942 IN
MARRACUENE, MOZAMBIQUE. HE JOINED FRELIMO IN 1964 AND
SERVED AS FRELIMO REPRESENTATIVE TO EGYPT AND ROMANIA
DURING THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE. DURING THE TRANSITIONAL
GOVERNMENT HE SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE MIXED MILITARY
COMMISSION AND AS GOVERNOR OF NAMPULA PROVINCE. HE WAS
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APPOINTED DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IN JULY 1975. HE IS A
MEMBER OF THE FRELIMO CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HE HAS BEEN TO
PORTUGAL AT LEAST ONCE DURING THE PAST YEAR TO ATTEND A
GATHERING OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY ON BEHALF OF
FRELIMO. HE HAS BEEN ASSESSED AS INTELLIGENT AND AN
ABLE ADMINISTRATOR, BUT WITH NO REAL POLITICAL BASE. HE IS
SAID TO HAVE A QUICK TEMPER AND WAS AT ONE TIME REGARDED

AS A PROTEGE OF THE LATE EDUARDO MONDLANE, HE SPEAKS
EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

3. IN DEALINGS WITH THE EMBASSY, PANGUENE HAS BEEN HELPFUL
IN ARRANGING MEETINGS FOR THE AMBASSADOR WITH PRESIDENT
MACHEL AND IN MEETING HIMSELF WITH VISITING AMERICANS
(E.G. GOVERNOR SCRANTON, SENATOR PERCY, CONGRESSMAN DIGGS),
BUT HE HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING WITH INFORMATION. HE HAS
ALSO BEEN RELUCTANT TO EXPRESS THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON
POLICY ISSUES, PREFERRING TO LISTEN AND ASK QUESTIONS. HE
APPEARS TO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF MACHEL AND HAS ACCOMPANIED
THE PRESIDENT TO MANY OF THE MEETINGS OF FRONT LINE PRESI-
DENTS. HE IS WELL INFORMED ON THE LATEST US-UK INITIATIVE
ON ZIMBABWE AND ON THE CURRENT TALKS WE ARE HAVING WITH
SOUTH AFRICA ON NAMIBIA.

4. THE APPOINTMENT OF PANGUENE COMES AS A SURPRISE TO
US. PREVIOUSLY IT WAS WIDELY THOUGHT THAT THE LISBON
POSITION WOULD GO TO LUIS BERNARDO HONWANA. PANGUENE,
DURING THE PERIOD OF CHISSANO'S DISFAVOR LAST YEAR, WAS
CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE BEING GROOMED TO TAKE OVER AS
FOREIGN MINISTER. CHISSANO'S REHABILITATION MAY HAVE
PUT A STOP TO THAT. WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS NO GREAT
AFFECTION BETWEEN PANGUENE AND CHISSANO. PANGUENE IS A
LOGICAL CHOICE FOR THE DELICATE LISBON POSITION, BUT IT
REMOVES HIM FROM THE LOCAL SCENE AND AS SUCH MAY BE SOME-
THING OF A DEMOTION.

DE PREE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MAPUTO00791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770218-0946
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770646/aaaabnvt.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: df03fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2113957
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PANGUENE APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL
TAGS: PDIP, MZ, PO, (PANGUENE, ARMANDO ALEXANDRE)
To: STATE LISBON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/df03fc7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009